



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

March 3, 2005

News Release

CALIFORNIA SALES EXECUTIVE INDICTED FOR VIOLATING CUSTOMS EXPORT BAN ON PRODUCTS TO IRAN

CHICAGO—A suburban Los Angeles sales director for a manufacturing company was indicted Tuesday on federal charges for attempting to illegally send a banned product to Iran, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

A federal grand jury in Chicago returned a two-count indictment charging the defendant, Juan Sevilla, with two felony counts of violating customs and commerce export regulations under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, announced Patrick J. Fitzgerald, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, today.

Sevilla, 53, of Gardena, Calif., is currently sales director and was previously director of international sales for United Calibration Corp., of Huntington Beach, Calif., which manufactures universal testing systems and related software technologies. Sevilla has remained free on his own recognizance since the charges were first brought in February 2004 when he was arrested on a criminal complaint. He will be arraigned at a later date in U.S. District Court in Chicago.

According to the indictment, between Oct. 27, 2003, and Feb. 19, 2004, Sevilla attempted to export a United Computer Inclusive Hydraulic Floor Model Testing Machine from California through Chicago destined ultimately for Iran, which violates the U.S. export embargo to that country. The machine tests the tensile strength of steel. Neither Sevilla nor United Calibration had government authorization to export the product to Iran.

Mr. Fitzgerald announced the charges with Elissa A. Brown, special agent-in-charge of the ICE Chicago office. The U.S. Commerce Department Bureau of Industry and Security also assisted in the investigation.

“Exporting sensitive technology is controlled for good reason,” Brown said. “Keeping sensitive U.S. technology and software from falling into the wrong hands is a high priority for ICE and the Department of Homeland Security.”

Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Collins is representing the government. If convicted, each count carries a maximum penalty on each of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The Court, however, would determine the appropriate sentence to be imposed.

The public is reminded that an indictment contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.